









# MCA, other agencies help defeat explosively formed penetrator weapons

Art Powell

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Maintenance Center Albany is helping to meet the armor requirements for protecting Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles from explosively formed penetrators, the latest terrorist threat to vehicles in the theaters of operations.

“This is a joint program, so the Joint Program Office suggested to Tank Army Command in Warren, Mich., that they consider MCA as a production site for the armor work. We went to a meeting with them and said this is something we’d like to do, and we could meet some aggressive timelines they had,” said Blasé Goodman, manager, Project Branch, Maintenance Center Albany.

Since MCA had a proven successful track record of working with armor in the past, meeting the \$62 million MRAP armor kit requirement was taken in stride.

“This was another requirement that came to Maintenance Center Albany and they needed 100 kits by the end of February. Of course, we didn’t get the hard requirements until January, we slapped the table and expedited those kits and met that requirement, and we’ve met every production requirement they’ve put on us since, producing about 100 kits a week,” he added.

Besides experience working with other armor programs, including the Frag 5 kit for the humvee, MCA had another asset in place: a relationship with regional vendors who could assist in armor programs.

“We have the processes and procedures in place at MCA to process armor. We have a vendor base within the southwest Georgia area that we can call on to produce some of the piece parts and cut the metal for us. We’re the integrator on these kits. We receive the pieces in and do the weld assembly and the coating and packaging of the kit. And then, they’re shipped up to an Army depot where the classified components are placed into the kit,” said Goodman.

The initial MRAP armor kit program expanded into what it is today.

“Initially, we were tasked with providing armor kits for the Force Protection MRAP variant that the Marine Corps uses. During the design of the kits, the Army completed their design first for the International Military Group MRAP, which is one variant the Army uses. Because of the large number of MRAPs the Army has, they looked to us to assist Rock Island Arsenal in producing the IMG kits,” added Goodman.

Production work on the MRAP armor kits, which began in February, should be completed in June, but there could be additional work.

“The initial order was reduced due to the unavailability of some materials, so we’re working toward a lower production number,” explained Goodman.

Although the kits are designed for Army MRAPs, the kit might be modified to fit Marine Corps MRAPs when some engineering issues are resolved. But each branch of the service which receives the armor kits share a common thread, responding to terrorist threats.

“That’s what we’re doing with these kits, trying to stay one step ahead of what the insurgents are using. So, as they migrated to the EFP’s, this kit was developed to defeat that threat,” Goodman said.

“Our folks have put in a great effort again, working six days a week and long hours to meet those production numbers. We’ve worked through some holidays to meet the requirements,” he explained.

Besides designing and fabricating the armor kits, MCA had a role in training Army personnel on how to install them.

“Our Master Gunnery Sergeant (Luis) Cisneros was trained on how to install the kits and went to Camp Liberty in Iraq to show the Army how to do the work,” said Goodman.

Another key agency which helps make the MRAP armor program move on-time is MCLB’s Garrison Mobile Equipment.

Armor coming into MCA has to be transported to regional vendors for initial cutting, then brought back to MCA for welding and fabrication, then to Defense Logistics Agency for packaging at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany and finally transported to an Army depot for final configuration before being shipped overseas.

“The maintenance center wanted us to help out by hauling 10-15 loads of armor a day to vendors in the region for initial cutting. Our trucks bring it back to the maintenance center for additional processing,” said Clay Jens, supervisor, Motor Vehicle Operator, Garrison Mobile Equipment, Logistics Support Division, MCLB Albany.

“When DLA packages the kits, then MCA calls us to let us know there’s a (10-kit) load ready to go,” added Jens.



ART POWELL

**Al Lundy, left, and Kenneth Stocker build an armor kit shipping box in the Defense Distribution Center Albany Box Shop.**

“We’re running about two truck-loads of finished kits a week from MCA,” he said.

With 100 kits per week being produced, and GME trucks transporting 20 of them, the bulk of the transportation to Kentucky is accomplished using commercial truck lines, but MCA officials saw capacity at GME that could be used to reduce the cost.

“After meeting with managers at MCA, one thing we talked about was better utilization of the equipment we have here on base. We have road trucks (at GME) and we can lease others,” said Burnett Sutton, production controller, Project Branch, MCA.

“We’ve been transporting approximately 560,000 pounds of armor every week since Feb. 28, and our drivers are doing an excellent job, even working long hours, six days a week with mandatory overtime,” added Sutton, who has 42 years of service at MCLB Albany, 35 years of it at MCA.

“Since we have the drivers, and the vehicles are already leased by the maintenance center, instead of just letting those vehicles sit, and we’re paying for them, we might as well use them,” he said.

Designing a shipping container sturdy enough to support a kit weighing more than two tons fell upon the Defense Logistics Agency at MCLB Albany.

Similar to the approach MCA took by looking at its past armor successes, such as the Frag 5 armor kit, DLA looked at the Frag 5 shipping container to get ideas for the MRAP armor kit.

“First, I go look at the item, measure it and ask how it needs to be packed. On the MRAP box, they wanted to lift some items out of the box, so I had to build a pallet to go inside the box,” said Alvin Lundy, woodworker, DDAG, who first worked at DDAG in 1983.

“We started with the Frag 5 kit, but it was too big and we had to downsize it a little bit,” he added.

Overall, Lundy and his co-workers needed approximately two hours to determine how to modify the Frag 5 kit to meet MRAP shipping requirements.

“We had to have a prototype built, and once they were approved, the box shop started building them,” said Judy



ART POWELL

**Welders in the Maintenance Center Albany welding shop prepare Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle armor kit components prior to the kits being shipped to the Army.**

Knight, supply technician, DDAG, who completed the cost estimate for each packing box and met with MCA officials to move the process toward completion.

Another stop for MRAP armor kits here includes the welding shop where armor is welded into usable parts.

“We have five teams running and each team is working on one MRAP armor kit. It takes us about two to two and a half hours to weld a kit,” said Anthony Bignotti, team lead, day shift, Welding Shop, MCA.

When a kit is sent from MCA to DLA for shipping, Ricky Kennedy, supervisor, MRAP armor project, and his team get involved.

“We make sure everything that’s supposed to be in that kit is in there, and that it’s got a good paint job. There are about 30 major pieces in the kit, and many smaller ones,” said Kennedy.

“If the kits are ready to go in the morning, they are usually out of the gate and on the road that afternoon,” said Maj. Kent Wheeler, commander, Defense Distribution Center, Albany.

“The Army inserts the final components into the kit and sends it to the theater of operations,” he added.

“We’ve developed a good working relationship with Maintenance Center Albany when it comes to box and kitting process like this, and we’ve partnered with them to support the ultimate customer, who is the warfighter,” he said.

# Marine optimizes information flow

Joel C. Guenther

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

Capt. William G. Slack might be considered one of your more cerebral Marines. Although he has to qualify with the pistol, meet physical standards for both Physical Fitness Tests and Combat Fitness Tests, and look the “look” of the Marine, Slack spends much of his spare time thinking of Gailbraith’s perspectives on information processing and then applying those ideas to computational organization modeling in order to optimize information processing.

Many other units throughout the Marine Corps have employed elements of Six Sigma and LEAN to their logistical maintenance processes with a high degree of success.

Those efforts have increased productivity, streamlined maintenance functions and reduced errors.

Slack’s perspective, however, applies computational modeling to the information process rather than production.

In an article titled “Beyond LEAN and Six Sigma,” published in “Defense Acquisition Review Journal,” Slack and three other authors argued, and then tested, a model for applying computational processes in maximizing information processing for specific work projects, thereby reducing meeting times, throughput operations and allowing people to spend more time “working on engine maintenance and

less time exchanging information in meetings.”

Working with Joel J. Hagen, Roxanne Zolin and John Dillard, Slack and the others wrote, “By improving the quality of the organization and the flow of information through that organization, the quality of the organization’s output can be improved.”

In this study, they tested seven possible interventions scored from the baseline. The purpose was to increase efficiency in F414 aircraft engine maintenance.

What Slack and the others found is that “four of the seven interventions would be beneficial to reducing throughput duration,” thereby saving both time and money.

The results of the study led to several recommendations including reducing the meeting frequency, combining morning meetings and combining end-of-day meetings.

In another study titled, “You’ve Optimized Your Process ... Now Optimize Your Organization,” published in “Defense AT&L,” the authors tested five variables, finding that four of the five could lead to reduced throughput time.

Slack and the other authors concluded, “Our research shows that computational organizational modeling—like the tools associated with Theory of Constraints, LEAN and Six Sigma—can help managers identify opportunities for improving their organizations.”

Slack said, “that in production/maintenance lines, only

so many people can work within a small area. If you add people, productivity drops.”

However, should you work on optimizing other concerns, such as optimizing communications, additional gains can be made.

Slack also noted that the modeling process can be used in almost any work environment.

“This allows you to put through a computer simulation, a lot of different scenarios that if you were allowed to go into an organization and implement each of those things individually, it will take time, money and, if it fails, then you’re out,” he said. “With this we could electronically test different variables without the risk.”

Slack summarized his work. “What you are trying to do is a lot of the hard grunt work in a venue where it’s not going to have a negative effect on an organization.”



SLACK



The Emblem June 5, 2008 - 4

# Summer temperatures means monitor heat flag conditions

Pamela Jackson  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

As the summer heat index continues to rise, everyone needs to pay attention to the flag conditions here and understand what they mean.

There are five conditions listed for the heat flag warnings from least to most severe.

They are: no flags under 80 degrees; green for 80 to 84.9 degrees; yellow for 85 to 87.9 degrees; red for 88 to 89 degrees and black for 90 degrees and above.

“It is important to note that some of these flag conditions have extremely small, 2-3 degree ranges. That means that temperatures can rise right though, from yellow to black, in less than the flag station operators observation interval,” said John Sorenson, industrial hygienist, Risk Management Office, Public Safety Division, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany.

It is important to note that extreme conditions can lead to serious problems such as dehydration, heat exhaustion and stroke.

There are six flag stations aboard the base that indicate the current heat conditions and are based upon the Automated Heat Stress System.

The AHSS is a wet-bulb globe temperature meter that consists of three factors; ambient air temperature, humidity and the temperature of an object that absorbs the maximum heat possible

**SGTMAJ** from page 1

Reserve, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, after attending a session.

“Him stating that the Marines of today aren’t that different from the Marines of yesterday, that meant a lot,” she added.

Another town hall attendee was Sgt. Veronica Robledo, administrative clerk, Inspector/Instructor staff, Detachment Two, Supply Company, 4th Supply Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany.

“It was actually motivating since he talked about how he sees Marines re-enlisting at a higher rate than he’s ever seen before. He

**RETIREES** from page 1

munities to develop and design the research and, then, when we find something out, we want to share it with the community.”

The focus of Barnette’s presentation was on cancer prevention. Barnette said that, traditionally, cancer research has given precedence to tobacco use. But now, they are trying to “focus more on obesity issues more and more.” She noted that the clinic is now in the third stage of development, meaning that they now know that “if we make certain changes in our environment, it will help us to be healthier.”

Barnette said that there are a number of things people can do to improve their health including establishing a health goal, asking others who have become more fit what they did to achieve that level of fitness, exercising with a partner, drinking four glasses of water a day, eating more fruits and vegetables, getting a health screening, quitting tobacco use and just doing things for fun.

Derek J. Heard, M.D., again thanked the veterans and their spouses for the sacrifices they made for their country. The focus of Heard’s presentation was on heart disease and stroke and “the kinds of things we need to do to make us a little bit healthier.”

Heard noted that heart disease is the number one cause of death in the nation and that the southeast region of the nation, including Georgia,

**HURRICANE** from page 1

and sanitary facilities for as much as several weeks if necessary, said Morrison.

MCLB Albany maintains agreements with Jacksonville Naval Training Center, Naval Air Station Pensacola, and Marine Corps Central Command in Tampa.

In addition, the base maintains agreements with Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters in New Orleans, La., and Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Eastern Recruiting Region, Parris Island, S.C.

The largest potential site to affect MCLB Albany would be an evacuation from Parris Island, in which case we could see an influx of up to 11,000 recruits and support staff. The last time the base hosted an evacuation was in 2005 when trainees from Pensacola arrived prior to Hurricane Katrina. In 1999, the base hosted about 7,000 recruits from Parris Island, S.C.

**\*Hurricane Season**

In the Atlantic, Caribbean, Central Pacific and Gulf of Mexico, hurricane season runs from June 1 to Nov. 30. The Eastern Pacific hurricane season runs from May 15 to Nov. 30. Hurricanes can, and do, form before and after the official hurri-

from the sun.

Flag stations are located at the Naval Branch Medical Clinic, Fleet Support Division, Marine Corps Police Department, Maintenance Center Albany, Garrison Mobile Equipment and Building 3500. Each section is responsible for assigning their own personnel to change the flags closest to their stations based on weather conditions.

“The white box containing the computer system that analyzes and sends the updates to the MATCOM Apps 12 server is enclosed in a fenced area behind wing 300 of Building 3500,” said Terry Atteberry, customer technical representative, Customer Service Branch, Communication Information Systems Division, MCLB Albany. “The data is then retrieved and put into a spreadsheet and each section is responsible for monitoring the information and sending proper personnel to make the flag changes as required.”

This spreadsheet and Base Order 6200.1K dated Feb. 7, 2007, can be found on the MCLB Albany web site by going to [www.ala.usmc.mil/flags/](http://www.ala.usmc.mil/flags/).

“The most current flag condition can be obtained from the base web site which updates every 30 minutes, whereas the flags are updated hourly,” said Sorenson.

For more information, call (229) 639-5249.

talked about Iraq and a lot of things I really wanted to hear about,” she said.

Keeping recruiting standards high was one point that resonated with Sgt. Terrell Kelly, supply technician, Marine Corps Systems Command, at the town hall meeting.

“I think it’s a great idea that the commandant and the sergeant major aren’t lowering standards in the Marine Corps while they’re upping the numbers in the Corps,” he said.

“It feels good to know that our leaders are headed in the right direction as far as the Long War and getting everybody deployed who’s in the Marine Corps,” he added.

leads the nation in deaths due to heart disease. He also said that stroke is the third leading cause of death and the southeast region once again leads the nation.

Heard suggested taking several steps toward stopping heart disease and stroke. He told the audience to see your doctor, control your weight and stop using tobacco if you do use tobacco. He also added that two additional risk factors are unavoidable. Women over the age of 55 are at risk because of a reduction in estrogen in their bodies, and men over 40 years of age are at risk.

As a result, Heard said, “We all will have an identifiable risk factor for heart disease and stroke some time in our lifetime, even if we run five miles a day, even if we ate all of the fruits and vegetables we can, even if we are not cholesterol addicts eating at McDonald’s every day.”

Heard emphasized seeing your doctor and holding the doctor accountable for your health. He said, “Today is the day you decide you don’t want to be overweight anymore. I’m not going to smoke anymore, because I don’t want to be at risk. I’m going to see my doctor on a regular basis.”

To drive the point home, Heard asked, “Is living to see my grandchildren and great grandchildren grow up and prosper and become citizens, is that more important than taking one pill a day?”

cane season. Typhoons occur in every month of the year, more frequently than in the Atlantic basin, but are most common in the summer and fall months.

**\*Saffir-Simpson Scale**

Developed in the early 1970s by Herbert Saffir, a consulting engineer, and Robert Simpson, then director of the National Hurricane Center, the Saffir-Simpson Scale is a measure of hurricane intensity on a scale of 1 to 5. The scale categorizes potential wind damage.

Category 1 74 – 95 mph  
Category 2 96 – 110 mph  
Category 3 111 – 130 mph  
Category 4 131 – 155 mph  
Category 5 155 + mph

**\*Hurricane Watch**

Hurricane conditions are possible in a specified coastal area within 36 hours.

**\*Hurricane Warning**

Hurricane conditions are expected in a specified coastal area within 24 hours.

**\*Tropical Depression**

A tropical cyclone in which the maximum sustained surface winds are 38 mph or less. It may form slowly from a tropical disturbance or a from a tropical wave.

**\*Tropical Storm**

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tropical storm conditions are possible in a specified coastal area generally within 36 hours

2008



# INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

**Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany**  
**Thursday, July 3**  
**Boyett Park/Covella Pond**  
**Fun begins at 4 p.m.**  
**FREE and Open to the Public**

*Special Guest*  
*Miss Georgia 2008*  
*Sponsored by Palmyra Healthcare*

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

<b>4 p.m.</b>	<b>Food Vendors open, Inflated Attractions &amp; Rock Climbing Wall, Military Vehicles on Display</b>
<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Dixieland Band</b>
<b>6 p.m.</b>	<b>Jazz Ensemble</b>
	<b>K-9 Demonstration</b>
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Silver Wings Parachute Team</b>
	<b>From Ft. Benning will drop in</b>
<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>K-9 Demonstration</b>
<b>8 p.m.</b>	<b>Concert Band</b>
<b>8:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Colors</b>

**Fireworks will begin at approximately 9 p.m.**

**Bring your blankets and lawn chairs!**  
**No Weapons or Knives, No Pets, No Coolers.**  
**Appropriate Civilian Attire.**  
**Bags Subject to Inspection.**

## Fun for Kids!



## Albany Marine Band



## Food!



**639-5268**  
*For more information*

# Community Events

## Albany, Ga.

<b>June</b> Bards, Jongleurs, Roconteurs, Griots, Storytellers and Puppeteers June 4 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Albany Museum of Art (229) 439-8400  Wildcats vs. ThunderBirds June 7 Albany Civic Center (229) 435-5200  Pirates of the Flint Camp June 9-13 Flint RiverQuarium (229) 639-2650 x 226  Full Blown Blues Fridays June 13 Albany Museum of Art (229) 439-8400  Josie Bailey June 13	  Tallulah Massey Library (229) 420-3250 or Westtown Library (229) 420-3280   Wildcats vs. Firecats June 14 Albany Civic Center (229) 435-5200  The Big Band Sound June 14 The Albany Chorale (229) 317-6854  Teeny Tiny Tidbit Tales, Deborah Strahorn June 16 Central Library (229) 420-3200  Bug Festival Camp June 16-20 Flint RiverQuarium (229) 639-2650 x 226	<b>July</b> Independence Day Celebration July 3 MCLB Albany Covella Pond (229) 639-5268   Breakfast with the Cheetahs July 5 Parks at Chehaw (229) 430-5277  Monsters of the Deep Camp July 7-11 Flint RiverQuarium (229) 639-2650 x 226  Wildcats vs. Oklahoma City Yard Dawgz July 12 Albany Civic Center (229) 435-5200   ** Events are subject to change; please call ahead to confirm details of any event or activity.
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## Robins Air Force Base

Operation Macon Relief is collecting items for the victims of the Mother’s Day tornado. Items include: baby items, children clothes (ages one – 17 years old), men and women clothing (18 years and older), any size shoes, cleaning products, disposable towels/rags, canned goods, dry goods, non-perishable food items and bottled water. Drop box locations: fitness center, fitness center annex, Wynn Dining, AAFES Main Exchange, commissary and MPF. For more information call (229) 926-6596/2128.

Eight-ball pool tournament  
Community Center  
June 18 and 19, final competition on June 20  
5 - 8 p.m.  
Please register by June 16  
For more information, call (229) 926-2105

Quarterly table tennis tournament  
Community Center  
June 16

5 – 8 p.m.  
Draw is limited to 16 players, is open to all Robins AFB users. Please pre-register by June 12.  
For more information, call (229) 926-2105

Atlanta Falcons presale tickets  
Information, Tickets and Travel  
June 14  
For more information, call (229) 926-2945

Atlanta Braves VIP ticket packages  
For only \$50 (a \$300 value) limited supply  
For more information, call (229) 926-2945

Special Sunday skeet  
June 15  
Noon – 6 p.m.  
For more information, call (229) 926-4733

A dog obedience class  
Every Thursday  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
For more information, call (229) 926-2110

## Fort Benning, Ga.

<b>June</b> Fathers Day Brunch Benning Club June 15 For more information, call (706) 682-0640.  Reverse Sprint Triathlon June 7 Registration for this event is open until the start of the race. For more information visit <a href="http://www.benningmwr.com">www.benningmwr.com</a> or call (706) 527-2393.  Fishing at Russ Pond June 17 at 6 p.m. Outdoor Reservations for the equipment are required by June 3. For more information call (706) 545-9636.  Camp Courage	  June 2 - August, 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Registration is free but space is limited. For more information, call (706) 545-3605.  Bunco tournament The Benning Club June 19 at 6 p.m. Registration is required For more information, call (706) 682-0642.  Archery Shoot The Uchee Creek Archery Club June 22 9 a.m. - 1 p.m For more information call (706) 685-3060.  CG Golf Scramble June 26 8 a.m. and 1 p.m.	  Fort Benning Golf Course To register, call (706) 687-1940  Celebrate Independence Day June 28 York Field Free concert by the Commodores, Gary Nichols and Katie Rae Davis. UFC Fighters will make a special appearance and give free demonstrations. The Silver Wings and the 197th Infantry will display their exceptional military talents. The festivities start at 3 p.m. and is open to the general public. For more information visit <a href="http://www.benningmwr.com">www.benningmwr.com</a> .   ** Events are subject to change; please call ahead to confirm details of any event or activity.
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# Marine fights high gas prices with pedal power



ART POWELL

**Maj. Kent Wheeler, commander, Defense Distribution Depot, Albany, demonstrates the bicycle skills he uses to ride to work everyday. He peddles to protest high gasoline prices and his 18 mile ride to work, one-way, has helped him lose weight. Wheeler's habit motivated a Marine working in DDAG to also begin biking to work.**

**Art Powell**  
*PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST*

When Maj. Kent Wheeler, commander, Defense Distribution Center Albany, heads out the door to go to work most mornings, he doesn't get into his car. He gets on his bicycle and starts the 18 mile ride to the office.

"It costs me about \$60 to gas up my car, and I did that about four or five times a month," he said. "So I decided I wasn't going to put up with that any longer, and started riding my bike to work. Now, I fill up my car about one or two times a month, and the savings are already substantial."

While everyone is affected by the rising price of fuel, either directly at the pump or indirectly by anything that is dependent on transportation to deliver, Wheeler decided to fight back.

"Other people have started using public transportation or a motorcycle, but this (riding a bicycle) was my choice," explained Wheeler, who arrived at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany in 2005.

"I've been racing bikes for years, so this is a natural thing for me. It only took me a couple of days of biking to work to realize that I really enjoy doing it," he said.

Wheeler, who leaves home before 6 a.m. to make the journey, arrives at work before 7 a.m. each day.

"I take it easy. I have a light reflector on my bike, and try to stay away from heavy traffic areas. My biggest problem is people backing out of driveways," he continued.

Wheeler said biking when he was in other areas of the United States presented more problems with motorists than in Albany.

"Southwest Georgia is just more laid back, people aren't always in a rush," he explained.

When the weekend arrives, Wheeler doesn't put away his bike. He rides between 60-100 miles

per day on the weekend, in addition to "taking the scenic route" on his ride home from work during the week.

"You'll never see a basket on this bike," he said when explaining that his bike is built for racing, not hauling groceries.

Besides saving money, Wheeler lost approximately 12 pounds in the first two weeks of his biking-to-work training program and lifestyle change.

"It's been a combination of exercising and watching what I eat. And right now, I'm having a hard time eating all the food I'm supposed to eat," explained the Tampa, Fla., native.

But, he says, it's easy to eat all the food you don't need.

"Some people do a 50-mile ride, then go to McDonald's and eat two Big Macs," said Wheeler, a trim 41-year-old, who became a serious cyclist about 10 years ago.

He plans to return to racing later this summer, after reaching the physical standards he desires, through riding and diet.

Wheeler's example has inspired an employee in the distribution center to also start riding a bicycle to work to save money and get into shape.

"I saw what the major was doing, and being a Marine, I wanted to stay in shape and one way to save your knees is to ride every day," said Sgt. Qieth McQuereer, supply administrative clerk, DDAG, who rides approximately 12 miles to work each day.

McQuereer has also shed approximately 25 pounds since he began riding his bike to work. He is saving money as well, having recovered the purchase price of his bike in the first month he began riding it to work.

"The bike cost me \$289, and my gas bill was about \$300 a month, so that paid for the bike and I'm in good shape," he added.

"If you want to save gas, buy a bike," concluded McQuereer.

# Pallet recycling "goes green"

**Art Powell**  
*PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST*

The newest addition to the list of environmentally friendly activities here is a newly-revitalized pallet recycling program.

"This is all about landfill diversion, which means we want to stop pallets from the base going to the landfill," said Robert Metts, manager, Pollution Prevention Program, Environmental Branch, Installation and Environment Branch, MCLB Albany.

"We have a contractor who comes to the base and purchases the pallets from us and that saves us having to go to the landfill. Then, the contractor rebuilds them and puts them out for reuse. That saves time and money for Garrison Mobile Equipment and helps us get credit for reducing how much we take to the landfill," he added.

Under the previous program, the pallets were collected and rebuilt on base, then sold to the tenants.

"Solid waste is taken to the Dougherty County landfill, and it costs \$29 a load. This "green" program is all about landfill diversion now, not the money," said Metts.

The previous program was discontinued following manpower cuts and, from that point on, used pallets were merely thrown into dumpsters and they ended up in the landfill.

April marked the start of the new program as base officials stress they wanted to "go green" with pallets, to match existing "green" programs for the disposal of toner cartridges, paper, cardboard, batteries and used oil at the base.

Tenants that produce used pallets are asked to stack the pallets and contact the Environmental Branch to establish a pick-up schedule.

"Our recycling personnel will collect the pallets, then, when we get 400 pallets, we call the contractor who comes to



ART POWELL

**Forklift Operator John Shaw, pollution prevention, Environmental Branch, Installation and Environment Division, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, moves pallets as part of a "green" program to recycle them instead of transporting them to the Dougherty County landfill. Pallets are the latest addition to other "green" programs underway at the base.**



PAMELA JACKSON

# Marines visit Slater King Adult Day Care

**Cpl. Misty Seligman, administrative clerk, G-1, Adjutant, Marine Corps Logistics Command, cheers on her partner at Slater King Adult Day Care during a Marine volunteer trip to help with activity day Friday.**

**Lance Cpl. Scott Hawkins, financial budget technician, Programs and Resources Division, LOGCOM, watches for the next set of instructions in the background.**

# Marine receives Meritorious Service Medal, gold star in lieu of second award

**Col. Flora Emerson, director, Supply Chain Management Center, Marine Corps Logistics Command, receives a Meritorious Service Medal, gold star in lieu of second award, from Maj. Gen. Willie J. Williams, commanding general, LOGCOM on May 28, for her service from October 2007 to May 2008.**

**In part, the citation said that Emerson "was responsible for a 99 percent reduction in delinquent small arms shipments."**



JOEL C. GUENTHER

# Ribbon cutting ceremony



CYNTHIA JOHNSON

**Maj. Gen. Willie J. Williams, commanding general, Marine Corps Logistics Command, cuts a ribbon at LOGCOM's Maintenance Assistance Team facility in Bldg. 7121 at Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Friday. Master Gunnery Sgt. Bessie Reggans, former SNOCIC at the unit, assisted. The unit was formally known as the Marine Corps Technical Assistance Team. The new group is comprised of 52 military maintenance personnel in 17 MOSs and provides rapidly deployable technical assistance and maintenance management support for ground weapons systems to enhance the operating forces' equipment readiness.**

# Red Devils take it to Weapons

**Joel C. Guenther**  
*PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST*

On May 29, the Red Devils and Weapons softball Teams squared off at the softball field here.

Kenneth "Bruce Bruce" Bruce for the Red Devils faced down Thomas "Tom" Traxler, ace for Weapons.

The Devils came up first in the game. After an easy first out, things started happening for the Devils. A shot down the first base line placed a runner on first base right-center field left runner bobbled ball sent a runner first, this left only first base out.

A hard shot went by the pitcher brought in a run. Then a shot the pitcher left runners on second with, now, two outs. A liner retired the side for the Devil they brought in the one run.

This would prove to be fruitful.

Weapons began their half with a base hit, followed by field, which was misjudged, around the pathway for an in home run for Jonathon Whit ball in left field this time, left runners on second and third with one out.

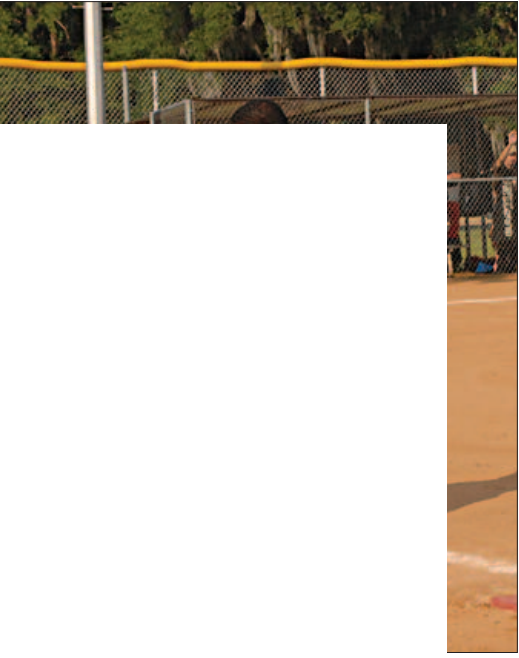
Still in the first inning, Weapons another run with a sacrifice fly third base scoring one run with runners on first and third and two outs. A hard hit ball down third scored another run, the another, leaving Weapons at the first inning with a 5-1 lead.

In the second inning, the Devils got an early hit, but it swung into a double play. Traxler threatened with a double to left field, but couldn't bring in the runner. Weapons again threatened but couldn't make it happen.

The Devils could not put together any other threats in the third inning, but Weapons

strung together a couple of hits before a hard hit ball and fast running scored three runs on a home run leaving the score at 8-1, Weapons.

Neither team did much for the remainder of the game until Weapons added a few more in the sixth inning. Weapons took this one with the final score standing at 11-1.



ENTHER

**Big show for the Red Devils tags a runner for Weapons in a losing effort 11-**





Sgt. RODOLFO TORO

Sgt. David Stiehler battles waves during one of the Special Operation Training Group's Scout Swimmer Course's physical tests in Kin Red May 20. The test required the Marines to swim more than 2,000 meters against the current in less than one hour using just their legs while donning a combat load.

# Americans, French gather to recognize historic contribution of Belleau Wood Marines

**Sgt. Rocco DeFilippis**  
*MARINE FORCES EUROPE*

**BELLEAU, France** — More than 200 Marines and Sailors from numerous commands joined together with thousands of French locals at the World War I Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial near the tiny village of Belleau, France to mark the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood during a Memorial Day ceremony May 25.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway joined Vice Chief of Staff for the French Army Gen. Elrick Irastorza and American Ambassador to France Craig Stapleton to pay tribute to the American and French soldiers and Marines who gave their lives in the defense of liberty.

The ceremony featured speeches and wreath presentations by the distinguished guests, poetry readings from local students, and performances by the French Army Band, the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Silent Drill Platoon.

“Throughout our Nation’s life, magnificent heroes have fought for our and others freedom in places like the wheat fields of Belleau Wood, the snows of Chosin in Korea, and the jungles of Vietnam,” Conway said during his speech. “On this Memorial Day, I salute the fighting men and women of all services and their families. It is fitting that we, as a nation, take the time to honor those who have given all in defense of their country.”

Nearly 4,000 local nationals, tourists, service members and family members were present at the ceremony. At the reception that followed, American and French men and women took time to enjoy camaraderie and champagne at the Bulldog Fountain in Belleau, also a site of pilgrimage for Marines.

“As a Marine, (the event) was important because it is our history,” said Gunnery Sgt. Miguel Barrera, adjutant chief for Marine Corps Forces Europe. “Seeing the passion and gratitude that the French displayed for us as Marines made it clear that...freedom is something that we must

continue to pursue throughout the world.” “For the people here, it is a great opportunity to strengthen the Franco-American friendship,” said Herreman Alexandre, a local and collector of World War I memorabilia. “We look forward to this day each year. It is a very grand day.”

In addition to the memorial ceremony, the trip gave the Marines and their families the opportunity to walk in the foot steps of the Devil Dogs who fought at Belleau Wood and the surrounding towns during a guided professional military education tour.

During a battlefield PME the Marines and their families were visited places like Hill 142, a strategic hill that secured an important flank of Belleau Wood itself; Lucy le Bocage, a small village that served as an important command center during the battle; Bouresches, a vital village on the right flank of the wood that was the site of fierce combat; and Belleau Wood itself, where the Marines helped turn the tide of World War I by stopping the Germans in their advance to Paris.

“To not have served in combat and actually walk on hallowed grounds at the battle site, clearly gave me the perspective on how brutal the fog of war can really be,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kurt Garcia, Marine Forces Europe administration quality assurance officer-in-charge. “To actually see trenches, fox holes, machine gun nests and trees that have obvious scarring from blasts by artillery shells, still in existence after 90 years is truly remarkable and something I will never forget.”

Overall, the two-day event gave the Marines and their family members the opportunity to pause and reflect on those who have gone before and to honor the men and women who today, stand in defense of freedom and liberty around the world.

“During the battle, it was clear to me that our Marines had unimaginable circumstances to overcome,” Garcia said. “It gives me great pleasure to know that today; we still have men and women willing to put themselves in harms way in protecting our freedoms and way of life.”



Sgt. Rocco DeFilippis

**Marines from the Commandant’s Own, the United States Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, perform a concert for the more than 4,000 people gathered at the Memorial Day service at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and Memorial Belleau, France. This year marked the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood.**



Sgt. Rocco DeFilippis

**During a Memorial Day reception at the Bulldog Fountain in Belleau, France, Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James T. Conway presents Vice Chief of Staff for the French Army Gen. Elrick Irastorza with an engraved sword. The sword symbolizes the continued Franco-American friendship.**

# Task Force 2/7 dedicates camp after MoH recipient

**Cpl. Ray Lewis**  
*TASK FORCE 2D BATTALION, 7TH MARINE REGIMENT, 1ST MARINE DIVISION*

**CAMP BARBER, Afghanistan** — The Marines now have a place to call their own.

On May 11, Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division dedicated its camp here as Camp Barber in honor of Col. William E. Barber, a Medal of Honor recipient who served with 2/7 during the Korean War.

Task Force Commander Lt. Col. Richard Hall and Sgt. Maj. Matthew B. Brookshire presided over the dedication ceremony, which reflected the pride and ownership Marines are traditionally proud of displaying.

“We’re proud of our heritage; we’re proud of being Marines,” said Brookshire, adding the camp was named after an outstanding and well-deserving Marine from the battalion’s heritage.

Col. Barber was a captain when he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor — the nation’s highest military award for combat heroism. He led his company in a desperate five-day defense of a frozen mountain pass vital to the 1st Marine Division’s breakout to the sea, according to his award citation.

He was wounded while fighting sub-zero temperatures against overwhelming odds. Yet, he reportedly refused evacuation and remained in command of his company.

His actions merited the Medal of Honor presented to him by President Harry S. Truman during a ceremony held at the White House on August 20, 1952. He passed away April 19, 2002.

In his honor, the Marines unveiled a marquee that dons the camp’s heroic name. It rests at the camp’s front entrance, which also features an American flag and a Marine Corps flag that are raised each morning at dawn and lowered at dusk.

“It’s one of those motivating things,” Sgt. Maj. Brookshire said. “It adds the Marine flavor to the overall camp itself... we fly our flags high here as you can see.”

Lieutenant Gen. Samuel T. Helland, commander of Marine Corps Forces Central Command and commanding general of I Marine Expeditionary Force, was the ceremony’s guest speaker. Also in attendance were Maj. Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, commanding general, 1st MarDiv, and Sergeants Major Dennis W. Reed, MARCENT/I MEF, and Randall Carter, 1st MarDiv, who traveled to Afghanistan with the

The MARCENT commander highlighted the ceremony when he combat meritoriously promoted Cpl. Peter R. Villanueva of Weapons Company, and Lance Corporals Jason L. Claunch and James D. Doherty, both of Company F, to their current ranks.

“I felt honored because here’s a general taking his time to promote a lance corporal,” said Lance Cpl. James D. Doherty of Company F, who was also pinned by the general. “I was kind of nervous because it’s a three-star general. I didn’t want to trip over my feet or anything. It’d be embarrassing. I just wanted to be my best.”

Doherty said he was motivated by the promotion, and plans to pick up his next rank much faster.

“I wasn’t supposed to pick up lance corporal until August, so this gives me a lot more motivation to pick up corporal meritoriously,” he said. “To get promoted here shows we’re making footsteps. The dedication means the Marine Corps is breaking new ground all over the world.”

Another Marine was completely surprised to hear that he would be getting promoted by the general as well.

“It was pretty outrageous. I found out maybe two hours before formation,” said Lance Cpl. Jason L. Claunch of Company F.

Claunch said he now has a new found confidence and also the drive to pick up corporal by January.

“You can say that it motivated me. It kind of brought out the sense of pride that comes with being a Marine,” Claunch said.

The final Marine to be promoted on this momentous occasion was Cpl. Peter R. Villanueva of Weapons Company. As he and the other two Marines stood proudly in front of Lt. Gen. Helland, it was evident that their promotions played a significant role in the dedication ceremony itself.

“It’s something big for a Marine to be promoted on a camp just prior to its dedication ceremony,” said Headquarters and Service Company 1st Sgt. James A. Colon, who acknowledged other Marines promoted here on May 1 before the camp’s official dedication.

“I want it to be known that they, too, are a part of the Marine Corps’ history,” Colon said. “How often can you say that you were one of the first Marines promoted at Camp Barber?”

The first Marines to be promoted to their current ranks here were Lance Corporals German A. Hoyos and Mark W. Richardson, Corporal Brandon W. Dion, and Sergeants Victor M. Perez, Donald O. Critchlow and Mackenzie P. Thompson.



Barber

chief said seeing the dedication and promotions brought his 27-year Marine Corps career full circle.

“It feels like the last part of a long ‘Ooh-rah’ for me,” Sterling said. “To be here for this dedication and then be there to see these Marines get promoted... it felt pretty good actually.”

Sterling said he also approached Hoyos immediately after the promotion to see how the newly-promoted lance corporal felt about being the “first” Marine promoted here.

“I said, ‘Do you know that you’re the first person promoted on camp Barber?’” Sterling asked the Marine. “... he just gave me that good old Marine Corps smile.”

Task Force 2/7 is the Marine Corps’ first battalion-sized unit to be assigned the mission of training, mentoring and advising the Afghanistan National Police in support of



